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Summary

As a result of the harmonization of the budgets of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, and in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, this report presents the proposals relating to the previous category 4 (advocacy and programme development for headquarters and regional offices) separately from the support budget (E/ICEF/1999/AB/L.7). The formal decision to be made on the basis of the present document is the adoption of the draft resolutions contained in paragraphs 63 and 64.

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Abbreviations

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
EAPRO	East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IDD	iodine deficiency disorders
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IT	information technology
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MTP	medium-term plan
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
PROMS	Programme Manager System
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAFLAC	Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean
TACRO	The Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office
UNAIDS	Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WES	water and environmental sanitation
WHO	World Health Organization

I. Introduction

1. As a result of the harmonization of the budgets of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund, the proposals relating to the previous category 4 (advocacy and programme development for headquarters and regional offices) are presented separately from the support budget (E/ICEF/1999/AB/L.7). This is also in line with recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The present proposal has been organized into separate sections for headquarters and for regional offices. Proposals for general resources and supplementary funding are explained for each office.

II. Headquarters

2. The proposed advocacy and programme development budget for UNICEF headquarters will continue to be used to address priority issues in the context of the medium-term plan (MTP) for the period 1998–2001 (E/ICEF/1999/13 and Corr.1) in the areas of health, nutrition, water, environment, sanitation, education, child protection, gender and programme partnerships. The cross-sectoral areas for children's rights, including early childhood care for survival, growth and development, basic education, adolescence health and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, will be priority themes and particular focus areas of work. As in the previous budget cycle, provision has been made for further strengthening the development of the Programme Manager System (PROMS) and the information technology (IT) infrastructure from supplementary funding. This will enable accelerated implementation and enhance the quality and effectiveness of programme information systems for programme delivery.

A. Budget (general resources) for advocacy and programme development

3. The breakdown of the proposed budget into major programme fields and expenditure lines is shown in table 1. For headquarters, the budget totals $15.9 million for the 2000–2001 biennium.

4. UNICEF has established extensive cooperation with key agencies both within and beyond the United Nations system in order to mobilize broad-based support for programmes and policies for children and women. These partnerships are aimed at mobilization at global, regional and country levels; technical collaboration in supporting field programmes; and the development and promotion of strategies and programme approaches to advance the rights of children and women. In the area of health, for example, UNICEF is a partner in the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the multi-agency global collaborative effort to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. In the area of education, UNICEF supports collaborative activities with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in developing methods of monitoring and assessing basic education outcomes, and disseminating innovative approaches and strategies for girls' education. Similarly, the International Labour Organization and UNICEF are undertaking collaborative efforts in combating the harmful practices of child labour and adverse working conditions for women. UNICEF also has collaborative arrangements with a number of other international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academic and research institutions.

Table 1
Advocacy and programme development budget (general resources) for headquarters
(In thousands of United States dollars)

	Workshops and conferences	*Programme materials and publications development*	*Co-funding of joint programmes*	*Research and studies*	*Total*
Health	254	147	819	384	1 604
Nutrition	210	175	646	357	1 388
Education	154	685	418	327	1 584
Water, environment and sanitation	250	330	140	70	790
Child protection	135	128	153	157	573
Intersectoral theme areas	310	494	724	1 387	2 915
Advocacy and communication	367	2 579	314	–	3 260
Planning, evaluation and monitoring	210	302	70	1 822	2 404
Emergency	590	160	235	410	1 395
Total proposed for 2000–2001	**2 480**	**5 000**	**3 519**	**4 914**	**15 913**
Total approved for 1998–1999	**2 209**	**3 971**	**4 426**	**2 931**	**13 537**

5. The present budget proposal contains $3.5 million for collaborative programme activities with other United Nations agencies and international organizations.

6. The technical advisory and other sections in Programme Division will continue to prepare, produce and disseminate a wide range of printed and audio-visual materials to support policy implementation, and to provide programme and global mobilization and advocacy on priority issues. Use of the Internet and the dissemination of information through websites have opened a new dimension in the area of advocacy and knowledge-sharing. For example, Voices of Youth, an interactive website, is a major and growing medium for Education for Development. A series of Programme Knowledge Networks have already become operational, and their use will be further strengthened as a corporate resource for managing and sharing knowledge with staff, collaborative partners in the United Nations system and other organizations. Networks already established include the areas of water and environmental sanitation (WES), health, education, rights-based programming and the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

7. For programme advocacy publications, audio-visual and other material development, a budget in the amount of $5 million has been provided. Included in this budget are the costs of producing *The State of the World's Children report* and *The Progress of Nations*, two annual global flagship publications which advocate and provide analysis and data on key issues affecting the rights of children and women.

8. UNICEF support to operations, research and studies, including those promoted by the Evaluation, Policy and Planning (EPP) Division and Programme Division, is of a practical nature, aimed at developing improved programme strategies, policy analysis for children and women, and evaluations for learning lessons and more effective implementation. Research activities are carried out in collaboration with other institutions and national counterpart organizations. Activities supported at the headquarters level are

directed at issues of common concern to many field programmes. This budget contains $4.9 million for support to research and studies.

9. Workshops, seminars and support for the organization of global and regional conferences on issues affecting children and women, and related to the operational activities of UNICEF, are important components of programme cooperation. Training and consultation workshops are undertaken selectively, in collaboration with other institutions and using appropriate technical expertise, as a means of mobilizing political and operational support for children and developing capacity with development partners. This budget includes an amount of $2.5 million for workshops and conferences on priority programme areas.

B. Supplementary programme for headquarters and interregional activities

10. The supplementary programme for headquarters and interregional activities complements the general resources budget for advocacy and programme development described above. The supplementary programme proposal is funded by and subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions. For the 2000–2001 biennium, the total proposed budget for the supplementary programme for headquarters and interregional activities is $237 million. The budget contains a proposal for headquarters and country offices in the amount of $189 million and $48 million for regional offices. The budget proposal is summarized in table 2. The overall purpose of this provision is to allow the organization to seize new opportunities for children as they arise at global, regional, multi-country and, in exceptional cases, at individual country levels, in addition to the ceilings approved through individual country programme recommendations. For the 1998–1999 biennium, the Executive Board approved a total budget of $161.2 million for the supplementary programme for headquarters and interregional activities (E/ICEF/1998/AB/L.1 and Corr.1). Of the funds received in 1998 against this approval, $9.7 million were allocated for activities at global or interregional and multi-country levels, while $36.3 million were allocated for initiatives in specific countries. The latter included activities such as support to National Immunization Days for the eradication of polio, which attracted donor support on a substantial scale. The provision for funds also includes activities to facilitate the strengthening of core capacities within UNICEF to respond effectively to situations of instability, emergencies and natural disasters within the Martigny framework. These activities will focus on mainstreaming emergency concerns and humanitarian issues within UNICEF country programmes, including through preparedness planning, and enhancing inter-agency collaboration for emergency response to the needs of children and women.

11. The provision for the supplementary funds for activities in the advocacy and communication area include, *inter alia*, the following aspects:

(a) UNICEF website: the UNICEF website will be expanded into a resource for the development and dissemination of programme knowledge as well as for information on children of interest to the general public, young audiences and journalists;

(b) Electronic photograph and broadcast databases: an electronic photography database to manage, store, catalogue, search and retrieve images owned by UNICEF will be enhanced to include also a web version. A similar broadcast library database for video clips will be developed;

(c) Contacts and distribution system: a contact and distribution system will be developed to disseminate the advocacy material to target audiences in a speedier and user-friendly manner.

12. The opportunity to further leverage the UNICEF IT infrastructure exists, and supplementary funds are sought to achieve this in an accelerated manner. The returns on such an investment in terms of enhanced management capacity and information and advocacy opportunities have already been demonstrated in the previous biennium. Areas for supplementary funding include:

(a) Enhancement of the global telecommunication network with respect to performance, robustness, redundancy and emergency support;

(b) Accelerated implementation of process enhancement in PROMS to improve programme management and reporting functions;

(c) Strengthening field IT capacities by rotation of IT staff through the global help desk, undertaking analysis for strategic direction in field support customer service, and providing guidelines and operational support and coaching;

(d) Enhancing executive information system capability through integrated reporting tools and archiving/data warehousing, optimizing interfaces to minimize transferral time of data and for better and automated error recovery, and obtaining more licenses to permit additional staff to work with tools on-line;

(e) Investment to enhance the use of the world wide web: hardware and software for web-enabled standard reports on the intranet; upgrading of infrastructure to support multimedia, audio and video services; and user registration software for extranet and internet.

13. It is envisaged that, if necessary, funds in excess of indicated amounts for specific programme areas and regions can be received and used provided that the total amount of utilized funds is within the overall proposed budget limit.

Table 2
Advocacy and programme development budget (supplementary funds) for headquarters and interregional activities
(In thousands of United States dollars)

	Headquarters	*Regions*	*Country*	*Total*
Health	5 137	10 100	76 400	91 637
Nutrition	9 328	2 400	3 700	15 428
Education	2 861	1 500	2 000	6 361
Water, environment and sanitation	400	1 200	3 000	4 600
Child protection	2 550	2 200	2 900	7 650
Intersectoral theme areas	5 800	6 900	3 400	16 100
Advocacy and communication	12 440	13 300	–	25 740
Planning, evaluation and monitoring	6 793	6 000	1 500	14 293
Emergency	6 700	3 500	30 000	40 200
Information technology	11 000	1 000	3 000	15 000
Total for 2000–2001	**63 009**	**48 100**	**125 900**	**237 009**

III. Regional offices

14. The budget proposal for regional offices includes an amount of $5.2 million for advocacy and programme development from general resources and $46.6 million to be mobilized as supplementary funds for support to priority programme activities at the regional level. The main programme activities for each of the regional offices are outlined below.

A. West and Central Africa Regional Office programme budget for advocacy and programme development

15. For the 2000–2001 biennium, the proposed programme budget for the West and Central Africa Regional Office is $1.0 million from general resources and $4.1 million from supplementary funds. It is envisaged that the proposed programme budget will support the following activities:

(a) The Regional Office will support the capacity of the country offices in West and Central Africa to assist Governments and other partners in assessing and analysing the situation of children and women in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the establishment of monitoring and reporting systems on children's rights. It will continue to promote regional capacity-building, support relevant regional institutions and disseminate programme information with development partners in the region;

(b) The Regional Office will advocate for cost-effective, community-based health policies, safe motherhood programmes and expanded programmes on immunization and disease control. Significant contributions will be made towards achievement of the organizational goals of the MTP for reducing young child mortality and morbidity by strengthening the support and guidance given to implementation at the country level of the Bamako Initiative and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI);

(c) In the area of basic education, support will be given to country offices in developing well-focused education programmes based on UNICEF regional education priorities and global education strategies. To promote and support the development of basic quality education, in particular for girls, the Regional Office will continue to coordinate implementation of the African Girls' Education Initiative in West and Central Africa. This will include the provision of support to regional- and country-level capacities in girls' education programme development and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as for related communication activities;

(d) In WES, the Regional Office will focus its support on increasing the effectiveness of communication for hygiene behavioural change;

(e) The Regional Office will expand its efforts for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS by working through regional inter-agency networks. This will include supporting policy development and accelerating programmes across West and Central Africa to inform and protect adolescents against HIV/AIDS, increase access to youth-friendly health services and improve life skills. In countries with high levels of HIV/AIDS among pregnant women, technical guidance will be provided to national activities to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

(f) Support will be provided for the consolidation of achievements towards the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) and vitamin A deficiency, as well as to facilitate implementation by country offices of innovative strategies to reduce iron deficiency anaemia among young children and pregnant women. The capacity of country

offices to develop community-based integrated nutrition interventions will be strengthened and supported.

B. Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office programme budget for advocacy and programme development

16. The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) programme budget of $600,000 from general resources will be utilized mainly to support technical networks of the Regional Knowledge Acquisition Forum, regional studies, research and regional publications and communication materials development.

17. The Regional Office will focus on the following priority areas of work, of which the first two will receive the highest attention as "priorities among priorities":

(a) Technical and advocacy support for urgent acceleration of activities to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on children, adolescents and women;

(b) Technical and advocacy support for rapid acceleration of activities for the prevention and treatment of malaria;

(c) Support for the reduction of maternal mortality;

(d) Support for sustained high immunization coverage and vitamin A supplementation;

(e) Support for the promotion and protection of breastfeeding and implementation of the provisions of the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes;

(f) Technical support for the elimination of IDD as a public health problem;

(g) Support for the acceleration of education for all;

(h) Support for policy and programme development and community-based action in the area of early childhood growth and development.

18. ESARO will also pursue the following four major process/strategic thrusts:

(a) Technical support to ensure that programmes of cooperation are appropriately rights-based, including support to capacity-building in the implementation of humanitarian principles in emergency situations;

(b) Support to country offices and key partners to ensure the widespread and effective use of participatory methods of building capacity of communities to enable them to carry out problem assessment and analysis and to formulate practical actions related to programme goals;

(c) Support to building systems to ensure improved emergency preparedness and response around core commitments, as articulated in the post-Martigny process;

(d) Integration of the three strategies above into a new human rights approach to programming in the region.

19. The proposal for supplementary funding of $14.8 million for Eastern and Southern Africa is to cover high priority regional initiatives that will be pursued in support of the strategic thrusts mentioned above. Most of the initiatives, such as the "Sara" Communication Initiative, the HIV/AIDS network, the regional education initiative, and emergency preparedness and response, are a continuation of activities launched in the previous biennium and will be sustained and further strengthened in 2000–2001:

(a) HIV/AIDS: countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa region have the highest rate of HIV infection among adults in the world, with a number of countries now reporting that more than 1 in 5 women attending antenatal services are HIV-positive. AIDS is overwhelming social services in general, while health services are overwhelmed with the care of AIDS patients. The proposal, prepared jointly with UNAIDS for the 1999–2000 joint appeal, envisages UNICEF regional technical support for country-level work in the growing area of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; strengthening regional capacity to support programmes for AIDS orphans; regional technical assistance for infant feeding issues related to HIV/AIDS; and regional support to strengthen HIV/AIDS programmes in schools and for out-of-school children. Regional advocacy will focus on breaking the silence around HIV/AIDS that persists in many societies, while efforts will be accelerated for the care of affected UNICEF staff;

(b) Emergency preparedness and responses: in collaboration with the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes, the Regional Office will improve its capacity to ensure protection of children in armed conflicts. Funds are being sought for follow-up activities to the Martigny process and the maintenance of a regional emergency operations support unit. Further activities will aim at strengthening country office analysis of vulnerabilities and increased capacity for the evaluation of emergency response;

(c) Sara Communication Initiative: this Initiative has a strong record of attracting donor support, and the Regional Office will continue to coordinate and manage the production and wide dissemination of highly researched communication packages on staying in school; avoiding HIV/AIDS and sexual abuse; and issues of teenage pregnancy, early marriage, female genital mutilation, career choices and workload.

C. The Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office programme budget for advocacy and programme development

20. The proposed programme budget for the Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office (TACRO) is $745,000 from general resources and $8 million from supplementary funds. The supplementary funding proposal includes provision for the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean (SAFLAC) in the amount of $7 million.

21. These funds are programmed towards three major goals:

(a) To maximize the region's achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children and mobilize for the future agenda on children and women;

(b) To provide leadership in the region on issues that impact heavily on children;

(c) To promote children's rights and mobilize resources for children and women.

22. Specific technical leadership will include the leverage of regional priorities in:

(a) Promoting equitable social spending;

(b) Extending rights-based legislative and policy change for children;

(c) Promoting participation, especially of adolescents and women;

(d) Early childhood care for survival, growth and development;

(e) Maternal mortality reduction and the eradication of violence against women;

(f) Universal prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

23. At the operational level, TACRO will use programme funds to provide policy analysis, technical support and resource mobilization for children's and women's rights using networking and shared experiences as the principal tools to move towards a new child rights-based agenda. Programme excellence will be promoted through peer support by heads of offices to review and prepare for new programmes; comprehensive training for all offices in the region; systematic regional monitoring of performance through the use of the system of indicators already in place; and continuation of the strengthening of UNICEF offices through the management excellence approach. This will be complemented by other regional and subregional policy, multi-country programme, coordination and oversight activities, which includes the continuation of PROANDES (*Programa de la Región Andina*) (Programme for the Andean region) and the Amazon programme and initiation of the new subregional programme aimed at benefiting Central America's indigenous population groups (PROMAYA).

24. The Regional Office will mobilize resources and financing for children. The promotion of financial and national budget reforms to ensure adequate application of resources for social development sectors will be a priority in the spirit of the 20/20 Initiative. This will also encompass the further development of alliances with Governments, the private sector, civil society and international development partners, particularly United Nations agencies.

25. SAFLAC was created in 1988 with the aim of assisting countries in the region to cope with the negative impact of the economic crisis of the 1980s (E/ICEF/1988/13, decision 1988/22). While some of the regional conditions related to the creation of this facility have changed, its aim still remains valid for many countries in the region. This facility helps to support intercountry technical cooperation aimed at exchange of successful experiences, methodologies and appropriate technologies useful for achieving the goals of the World Summit for Children and the 1998 Lima Accord, while building national capacity for the fulfilment of children's rights and long-term national development.

D. Middle East and North Africa Regional Office programme budget for advocacy and programme development

26. The proposed programme budget for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Office for 2000–2001 is $760,000 from general resources and $2 million from supplementary funds. To help achieve the organizational priorities and provide more effective support to country offices in the MENA region, during 1998 the Regional Office refined the country clusters in the region according to their different levels of social and economic development. The objectives of the biennium regional office management plan will contribute to the MTP priorities, while specific indicators will monitor the regional contributions.

27. Thus, MENA Regional Office priorities will encompass a range of intervention areas that reflect the diversity of countries in the region and the need to create a movement for children — supported by well-founded data — to help achieve the desired programme outcomes.

A regional strategy for country office support

28. Since many countries in the MENA region have already achieved most of the goals of the World Summit for Children, the regional strategy will be four-pronged:

(a) To support countries that have achieved the World Summit goals to consolidate and sustain their achievements;

(b) To assist these countries to move from coverage of most goals, to coverage of all children's rights, and to shift the focus from access to the quality of services;

(c) To target countries that are lagging behind with focused support in specific areas;

(d) To develop strategies for supporting emerging issues and priorities in the region such as child labour, healthy lifestyles for youth, adolescent girls' education, education for peace and the integrated care of young children.

Programme contributions

29. The above four-pronged strategy will determine the specific type of Regional Office technical support to be provided to the different countries in the following programme areas:

(a) Sustained high immunization coverage;

(b) Polio eradication;

(c) Eradication of IDD, elimination of vitamin A deficiency and control of iron deficiency anaemia;

(d) The protection and promotion of breastfeeding, and advocacy for implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes;

(e) Implementation of IMCI;

(f) Reduction of protein-energy malnutrition;

(g) Reduction of maternal mortality;

(h) Healthy lifestyles for youth (e.g. issues of smoking, HIV/AIDS);

(i) Acceleration of quality education for all;

(j) Policies for the integrated care of young children.

Strategic contributions

30. The Regional Office will also focus on strengthening the following aspects of UNICEF country programmes in the region:

(a) Ensuring that UNICEF programmes of cooperation are based on the principles of children's rights;

(b) Ensuring the availability of data related to emerging issues in the region;

(c) Supporting the creation of movements for children;

(d) Supporting bringing about changes in knowledge and attitudes related to children's issues;

(e) Providing technical support to ensure that UNICEF programmes respond adequately to the different country environments, especially in countries in transition and facing emergency situations.

31. The rights-based approach will, as its starting point, promote the use of disaggregated data at the subnational level to focus on areas where goals have not yet been fully achieved. Based on the data obtained, efforts will focus on reaching previously unreached population groups and on reducing disparities. Emergency countries will be supported to ensure that their programmes respond adequately to children's needs. The region also has a considerable number of "transition" countries that will soon be eligible for new forms of cooperation, and developing such new modalities will be one of the priorities for the region in the foreseeable future.

Contributions for better programme management

32. The Regional Office will also promote and guide the following:

(a) The adoption and application of performance monitoring and quality assurance indicators at country and regional levels;

(b) Implementation of country programme management plans, with priority for graduating countries.

E. South Asia Regional Office programme budget for advocacy and programme development

33. The programme budget for the South Asia Regional Office for 2000–2001 is $800,000 from general resources and $6.7 million from supplementary funds.

34. These funding levels are proposed to enable the Regional Office to address programme priorities within the 1998–2001 MTP and to respond to the interest of funding partners in several areas of regional advocacy and action, such as the Meena communication initiative, child protection issues, early childhood care, child nutrition and maternal mortality, and cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on the prevention of child trafficking. Emphasis is also given to a focus on gender-related initiatives, HIV/AIDS, and strengthening monitoring and advocacy in the region. The funds will be used for establishing networks, mobilizing technical expertise, building institutional capacities, obtaining professional assistance for designing multimedia communication strategies and the production of prototype *Facts for Life* materials in the above-mentioned areas.

35. The South Asia Regional Office will use the proposed budgets for activities to achieve the following objectives:

(a) To organize and support regional meetings, studies and research with SAARC, NGOs and United Nations agencies to develop and further refine regional strategies in the fields of human rights, health, resource mobilization, the elimination of violence against girls and women, and education. Taking into consideration specific information and features of the South Asia region, strategies for advocacy will be identified;

(b) To provide technical support to country offices in the region in the areas of education, health, nutrition, economic and social policy support, and monitoring and evaluation for timely and high quality country programme development;

(c) To maintain a regional database on children and women, as well as networks of strategic allies in support of the knowledge function of the Regional Office.

36. The two key factors underlying the proposed programme activities are:

(a) The imperative for UNICEF to help to make a difference in the key areas agreed upon in the region for advocacy and action for children and women, and to mainstream a commitment to the rights and well-being of children and women in all domains — political, civic, economic and social;

(b) The opportunity to build and support a pro-child movement in the region linked to the 1999 SAARC Summit (SAARC Convention on Trafficking), the 2000 SAARC Summit (balance sheet of the SAARC Girl Child Decade and looking forward to the SAARC Child Rights Decade), and the global events marking the tenth anniversaries of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Summit for Children.

37. The following have been identified as flagship areas for UNICEF advocacy and action for children and women in the South Asia region.

A good start for the young child

38. The focus on the young child is a key organizing concept for integrating a range of disciplines which, applied together, provide a holistic approach to its survival, healthy growth and development. New knowledge in this field can form the basis for advocacy, action, communication and better presenting skills. In South Asia, the nutritional status of the young child is a particularly important determinant of its chances for survival and subsequent development. The status and well-being of women has a direct impact on the survival and early development of the young child. Thus, improved maternal health and maternal mortality reduction is integrated with the priority focus on the young child.

39. Technical support will be provided to country offices in the development of strategies and programming for the young child. This will include the development of the following: a strategy for community-based communication and training programmes for better parenting skills and knowledge; prototype training programmes and materials for professionals and paraprofessionals; advocacy strategies and materials on young child development and national resource investment decisions; and the development of networks for experience exchange, the identification of best practices and lessons learned.

40. Activities in child nutrition and micronutrients will include the continuation of regional initiatives in nutrition, with particular attention to the incidence of low birth weight; micronutrient deficiencies; maternal anaemia; and the parenting skills and knowledge communications and training strategy, with a focus on the quality of care, feeding practices and risks of infection at community and household levels. Support will also be provided to augment technical support available to country offices and to develop networks for experience exchange, the identification of best practices and lessons learned.

41. Activities for maternal mortality reduction will include the development of a regional advocacy and implementation strategy, emphasizing access to quality obstetric care, child spacing advice and micronutrients; and the development of training standards, systematic monitoring and data collection systems.

Reduction of threats to women and children

42. Concerning gender equity, in a region of systematic and chronic violence against and abuse of women and girls, UNICEF has already embarked on pioneering work to break the pattern of silence in South Asia related to these issues. Activities will include: advocacy measures, communication strategies, networking and strategies to develop positive male role models; analysis to identify and counter structural abuses of women in the household and community, in legal and legislative frameworks and in economic life and decision-making at policy and political levels; technical support to country offices; and the development of networks for experience exchange, the identification of best practices and lessons learned.

43. Activities for child rights promotion and protection from exploitation will include: the development of human rights-based advocacy strategies and materials for use with SAARC and other partners; the development of a regional advocacy database; and support to country offices in the particular areas of preventing child labour and the trafficking of children and women.

44. With the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS infection threatening the region, UNICEF will bring added value to networking and partnerships in the development of regional strategies

for communication and social mobilization, documentation and assessment of current programmes, as well as in information dissemination.

Information for advocacy

45. The region has undertaken significant work in the area of monitoring and database development. There are important opportunities for further development with partners of the *Atlas of South Asian Children and Women* and of the database that is maintained through the Child Info project.

46. The regional Meena Communication Initiative has attracted considerable support from funding partners. Its focus on the girl child has particular relevance to South Asia's major problems in relation to gender inequalities and the status of women. Activities in the next biennium will include the production and popularization of the existing and future series; and implementation of a plan to transfer "ownership" of the Meena Initiative to partners in the region, including with private sector support.

F. East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office programme budget for advocacy and programme development

47. The proposed programme budget for the East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) for the 2000–2001 biennium is $644,000 from general resources and $9 million from supplementary funds for advocacy and programme development activities.

48. With activities supported through these funds, the Regional Office will pursue the following major thrusts in the 2000–2001 biennium:

(a) To contribute to the incorporation of regional perspectives in the global policy preparation and medium-term strategic planning of UNICEF, and to ensure the incorporation of global perspectives in its regional initiatives. This will be achieved by facilitating identification and dissemination of best practices in the region; ensuring wide dissemination and implementation of global policies; the continuous updating and dissemination of a comprehensive regional information database; and encouraging of a process of learning through regional and global knowledge networks;

(b) To develop catalytic actions for realizing children's and women's rights, achieve the goals of the World Summit for Children and promote the new agenda for children for the next decade. Enhanced inter-agency and intergovernmental cooperation, and the mobilization of additional resources for UNICEF programmes and leveraging of additional investment in basic social services benefiting children and women, are other key objectives.

49. EAPRO manages a modest amount of general resources and supplementary-funded programme activities in support of country programmes and regional initiatives. The general resources component of the programme will continue to be used to support advocacy and programme development. These activities will build upon the Fourth Regional Ministerial Consultation held in late 1998 to accelerate progress towards achievement of the World Summit for Children goals, and initiate advocacy activities related to the new goals and priorities for the coming decade. A fifth Ministerial Consultation is planned for late 2000 early 2001 to assess achievement of the World Summit goals and to promote new policy thrusts in the region.

50. Supplementary funds are sought for the three regional projects, primarily in the Mekong subregion, as described below.

The Mekong HIV/AIDS project

51. The Regional Office is coordinating implementation of a multi-country HIV/AIDS project in the Mekong subregion, for which $5 million in additional supplementary funding is sought. This project, which was initiated in 1996, is currently funded by the Government of the Netherlands and the Netherlands Committee for UNICEF. The major objective is to provide strategic funding to accelerate efforts to contain the HIV/AIDS pandemic, including the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, in the six Mekong River countries (Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam). The level and scope of the work has increased substantially with the rapid spread of the epidemic in the region. The threat of eroding past achievements in infant and maternal survival and well-being, as well as the increasing rate of child trafficking in the region, make urgent action a priority. In the next biennium, this project will expand its geographical reach to provide technical assistance and modest resources to strengthen HIV/AIDS-related programming capacity in other countries beyond the Mekong subregion, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Pacific Island countries. The Government of the Netherlands has indicated its interest in continuing to support this expanded phase; the Australian Agency for International Development has also expressed its intention to support the project, and the unified UNAIDS appeal also envisages the allocation of resources to the project.

The Roll Back Malaria regional project

52. In collaboration with relevant partners, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have jointly adopted the following strategies to roll back malaria in the Mekong subregion:

(a) The promotion of community-based initiatives for improving home-based care for malaria cases, especially with respect to children and pregnant women, and the use of impregnated bednets;

(b) Large-scale implementation of simplified and cost-effective malaria control technologies such as dipsticks for diagnosis, blisters of drugs for treatment and impregnated bednets for prevention.

53. In support of these strategies, a joint WHO/UNICEF Roll Back Malaria project has been developed for the Mekong subregion consisting of: (a) large-scale national activities in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar; (b) focused actions in high-risk areas of China, Thailand, and Viet Nam; and (c) regional support for a malaria reduction campaign and coordination activities of WHO and UNICEF.

The child protection regional project

54. EAPRO is also proposing a supplementary-funded regional project to accelerate efforts for child protection programme priorities — the elimination of child labour and the prevention of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Trafficking of children and women, for both sexual and labour exploitation, is known to be a widespread problem across the East Asia and Pacific region, and particularly in the Mekong subregion. At present, widening economic disparities and the creation of new marginalized groups in the wake of economic crisis threaten to reverse achievements made to date and to further challenge efforts to progressively eliminate child labour, child prostitution and trafficking. The Regional Office has been an active member of the UNDP-initiated United Nations Working Group on Trafficking of Women and Children in the Mekong subregion. This supplementary-funded

project is designed to complement actions by other United Nations agencies, bilateral donors and Governments.

55. This project seeks to enhance the capacity of UNICEF country offices to contribute to implementation of activities in the Mekong subregion through:

(a) Capacity support for UNICEF offices identified as the United Nations facilitating agency;

(b) Development of practical linkages with the Mekong subregional HIV/AIDS project network for professional attachment and technical exchange;

(c) Support for the acceleration of community-based activities to reduce the numbers of children and women being exploited, abused and trafficked across borders through the following:

(i) Models for community data collection and monitoring, and for training in children's rights and basic social work skills for community-based service providers and leaders;

(ii) Experience exchange to strengthen community-based child protection/child watch groups;

(iii) Materials for information campaigns to increase awareness and protection skills for vulnerable groups.

56. The project will further promote and support experience exchange specifically related to education strategies for the prevention and early intervention against the exploitation, abuse and trafficking of children in all relevant countries. This will take place through intercountry study visits, regional/multisectoral dialogue, and documentation and dissemination of best practices.

G. Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States Regional Office programme budget for advocacy and programme development

57. The proposed programme budget for the Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States Regional Office for 2000–2001 is $600,000 from general resources and $2.0 million from supplementary funds for advocacy and programme development activities. This region has 11 countries without individual country programmes which are covered under a multi-country programme that was approved by the Executive Board at its third regular session of 1997 (E/ICEF/1997/12/Rev.1, decision 1997/22) and is being submitted to the Executive Board at the present session to continue this framework for the next biennium.

58. With a well-developed infrastructure and skilled human resources in the region, the focus of UNICEF in these countries will be on safeguarding achievements of the past, contributing to further capacity-building and collaboration with institutions in order to initiate studies on cost-effectiveness that will help to adequately respond to child protection issues in particular.

59. The strategy entails making the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child operational through selected interventions focusing on improved child care, the development and protection of adolescents, and specific health sector activities in order to promote children's and women's health as well as to support education, communication and advocacy.

60. The regional strategy comprises the following three closely interlinked categories: support to social sector service delivery; public policy and systems reform; and strengthening civil society and public institutions.

61. The objectives are:

(a) To develop a better understanding of children's issues through strengthening country capacity in data collection and analysis in support of policy development and systems reform;

(b) To advocate and support actions for children's rights at the country level through capacity-building and problem-solving with civil society, communities and Governments;

(c) To promote innovative approaches for the protection and development of children and adolescents, while promoting the participation of adolescents in the process;

(d) To strengthen and closely coordinate work with all relevant partners (United Nations agencies, National Committees for UNICEF, international and national NGOs, bilateral donors, etc.) on the protection of children and mothers;

(e) To enhance information and experience exchange among countries of the region and facilitate the dissemination of best practices.

62. The budget proposal for the biennium 2000–2001 for regional offices from general resources and supplementary funds is summarized in table 3.

Table 3
Advocacy and programme development budget for regional offices
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Regional offices	*General resources*	*Supplementary funds*	*Total*
West and Central Africa	1 007	4 100	5 107
Eastern and Southern Africa	600	14 800	15 400
The Americas and the Caribbean	745	8 000	8 745
Middle East and North Africa	760	2 000	2 760
South Asia	800	6 700	7 500
East Asia and the Pacific	644	9 000	9 644
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States	600	2 000	2 600
Total for 2000–2001	**5 156**	**46 600**	**51 756**

IV. Draft resolutions

Draft resolution 1

General resources programme budget estimates for the 2000–2001 biennium

63. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board adopt the following draft resolution on general resources programme budget estimates for the 2000–2001 biennium for programme activities at headquarters and regional offices:

The Executive Board

Decides:

(a) That a general resources programme budget of $21.1 million is approved (other than the Emergency Programme Fund) for 2000–2001 as per the following details:

	(In thousands of United States dollars)
Headquarters	
Health	1 604
Nutrition	1 388
Education	1 584
Water, environment and sanitation	790
Child protection	573
Intersectoral	2 915
Advocacy and communication	3 260
Planning, evaluation and monitoring	2 404
Emergency	1 395
Subtotal	**15 913**
Regions	
West and Central Africa	1 007
Eastern and Southern Africa	600
The Americas and the Caribbean	745
Middle East and North Africa	760
South Asia	800
East Asia and the Pacific	644
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States	600
Subtotal	**5 156**
Total	**21 069**

(b) The budget for the Emergency Programme Fund for 2000–2001 is approved for $25 million;

(c) That the Executive Director be authorized to administer the funds in the most efficient manner under the provision of each of the funds. The Executive Director, may, without further authorization from the Executive Board, transfer, if necessary, between the programme fields an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the approved budget of the fund to which the transfer is being made.

Draft resolution 2

Supplementary-funded programme budget estimates for the 2000–2001 biennium

64. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board adopt the following draft resolution on supplementary-funded programme budget estimates for the 2000–2001 biennium:

The Executive Board

Decides:

(a) That a supplementary-funded programme budget of $237 million is approved for the 2000–2001 biennium, subject to availability of specific-purpose contributions, as follows:

	Headquarters	*Region*	*Country*	*Total*
	(In thousands of United States dollars)			
Regional offices				
West and Central Africa	–	4 100	–	4 100
Eastern and Southern Africa	–	14 800	–	14 800
The Americas and the Caribbean	–	8 000	–	8 000
Middle East and North Africa	–	2 000	–	2 000
South Asia	–	6 700	–	6 700
East Asia and the Pacific	–	9 000	–	9 000
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States	–	2 000	–	2 000
Subtotal	**–**	**46 600**	**–**	**46 600**
Health	5 137	–	76 400	81 537
Nutrition	9 328	–	3 700	13 028
Education	2 861	–	2 000	4 861
Water, environment and sanitation	400	–	3 000	3 400
Child protection	2 550	–	2 900	5 450
Intersectoral	5 800	–	3 400	9 200
Advocacy and communication	12 440	–	–	12 440
Emergency	6 700	–	30 000	36 700
Planning, evaluation and monitoring	6 793	500	1 500	8 793
Information technology and PROMS	11 000	1 000	3 000	15 000
Subtotal	**63 009**	**1 500**	**125 900**	**190 409**
Total	**63 009**	**48 100**	**125 900**	**237 009**

(b) That for the biennium 2000–2001, a total recommendation of $237 million for supplementary funding is approved. If necessary, funds in excess of indicated amounts for specific programme areas and regions can be received provided that the total amount of funds received is within the approved limit.